



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

May 3, 2010

**Los Angeles County
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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: John F. Schunhoff, Ph.D. 
Interim Director

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY REPORT ON PROGRESS IN OBTAINING
REIMBURSEMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SERVICES MEDICAL HUB FORENSIC EVALUATIONS**

On September 1, 2009, on a motion by Supervisor Antonovich, your Board instructed the Chief Executive Office (CEO), in conjunction with the Departments of Health Services (DHS), Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Public Social Services (DPSS), to report back in 30 days, and quarterly thereafter, on our progress on the following items:

1) Working with the Medi-Cal Managed Care health plans to establish contracts for reimbursement for Medical Hub forensic examinations for pre-detained and non-detained children involved in the child welfare system; 2) working with the California Departments of Health and Social Services on carving out reimbursement to the County for Medical Hub forensic medical examinations at the federal Medi-Cal Share of Cost level, similar to the State's agreements with school-based clinics; and 3) evaluating the feasibility of systematically accessing alternative State emergency/temporary Medi-Cal eligibility programs, such as the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Gateway Program, for children not already enrolled in Medi-Cal.

This serves as the second quarterly report.

Reimbursement from Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plans

There are two Medi-Cal Managed Care health plans in Los Angeles County: the local initiative, L.A. Care, and the commercial plan, operated by HealthNet. DHS staff have been working with L.A. Care staff to develop an agreement to obtain reimbursement for DHS Medical Hub forensic examinations provided to L.A. Care members. L.A. Care staff have reviewed Medical Hub encounter forms and Medical Hub budgets and have developed an initial reimbursement model. L.A. Care has provided DHS with the initial reimbursement model for DHS review and analysis. DHS plans to provide feedback to L.A. Care within the next ten days.

Alternate State Emergency/Temporary Medi-Cal Eligibility Programs

As reported previously, most of the children seen at Medical Hubs have health coverage and children with third-party coverage are not eligible for temporary/emergency Medi-Cal. In addition, Medical Hub services are provided in outpatient clinic settings and are not considered to meet the Medi-Cal definition for emergency services.

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As part of its regular processing, DHS financially screens patients, including those receiving services at the Medical Hubs. If patients are found to not have third party coverage, they are referred to patient financial services staff for assessment and application assistance, including applications for Medi-Cal.

Facility patient financial services staff have received training on the use of the CHDP Gateway. Through the CHDP Gateway, children who do not have health coverage such as Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, or private insurance may receive temporary health care coverage through Medi-Cal. To continue health coverage beyond this temporary period patient financial services staff provide application assistance, including applications for Medi-Cal.

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Center Designation

SART Centers are able to receive reimbursement from law enforcement agencies for sexual assault exams that are authorized by the law enforcement agency. The DHS Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency oversees the SART Center program. Currently, the LAC+USC Medical Hub and the East San Gabriel Valley Medical Hub are SART Centers. To meet the 24/7 service requirement for SART Center designation, DHS examined the feasibility of establishing 24/7 SART services at Olive View Medical Center (OVMC) to provide the after-hours and weekend coverage for the OVMC Medical Hub and the High Desert Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MACC) Medical Hub and establishing 24/7 SART services at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (Harbor) to provide the after-hours and weekend coverage for the Harbor Medical Hub and the Martin Luther King, Jr. MACC Medical Hub. A preliminary fiscal analysis indicates that the costs associated with staffing and operating the 24/7 services at OVMC and Harbor are greater than the anticipated revenue that would be generated. As a result, DHS plans to centralize after-hours and weekend SART services at the LAC+USC Medical Hub. All Medical Hubs will provide SART Center services during their normal business hours. The four remaining Medical Hubs have drafted their SART Center applications and plan to finalize them and submit them to the EMS Agency by May 7, 2010.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Cheri Todoroff, Deputy for Planning and Program Oversight, at (213) 240-8272 or via e-mail at ctodoroff@dhs.lacounty.gov.

JFS:sr

c: Chief Executive Office
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Department of Public Social Services
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors